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RURAL DISTRICT OF DOCKING.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1937.

HUNSTANTON:
THE WITLEY PRESS,
PRINTERS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to hand you the Annual Report required of me as Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Docking for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

The District to which it relates consists of 87,064 acres and 32 Parishes.

Population—Estimated (Mid-Year) 1937—16,440.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937)—5,537.

Rateable Value—£53,519. Sum represented by a penny rate—£215.

Chief Occupation—Agriculture. Fishing, principally shell-fish and shore-netting, provides employment for a few.

General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

Medical Officer of Health—B. G. Sumpter, M.B., M.R.C.S. (Part Time).

Building Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—A. B. Nowell, A.M.I.C.E., F.G.S., C.R.S.I.

Part Time Assistant Sanitary Inspector since August 1st, 1937—J. W. Webb, C.S.I.B.

Health Visitors—only working under the County Council.

No Special Nurses.

No Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious cases—None.

For Non-Infectious and Accident cases—A Motor Ambulance is stationed at Hunstanton, loaned by the Red Cross Society. Charges are made for its use, and funds are raised locally to pay for necessitous cases and upkeep. If required at night, it is advisable to telephone to the Hunstanton Police Station, in the day-time to Messrs. W. H. Johnson at Hunstanton.

The Fakenham Ambulance also takes cases from the Burnham area to the N. & N. Hospital. The service is adequate.

Hospitals.

No Maternity, Children's or Fever Hospital in your District.

Small Pox.—There is a Small Pox Hospital on Docking Common for the Rural Districts of Docking and Walsingham. It stands in five acres of ground and can accommodate eight cases.

Fever Hospital.—None at present—one being built for the County.

Tuberculosis Cases needing Sanatorium Treatment are provided with the same through the Tuberulosis Officers.

Midwives.—There are one or two who take occasional cases, but most of the Maternity work is done by the District Nurses.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Children's Clinics are held at the different Council Schools under the direction of the School Medical Officer.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. At present there are twelve District Nurses, viz.—at Barmer and Syderstone; Brancaster and Thornham; Burnham Market; N. & S. Creake; Dersingham; Docking; Heacham; Holme and Ringstead: Snettisham; Sedgeford; E. & W. Rudhams; Birchams and Anmer.

They undertake General Nursing and Maternity Work. They are worked by local committees, supported by voluntary contributions and fees from patients. The County Council give considerable help to all Districts starting a Nurse, and your Council subscribes £10.10.0 a year to each Nursing Association wholly in your Distict, and a proportionate amount to those whose work extends into an adjoining one.

(b) The District Nurses do not nurse Infectious Cases, except where it is considered safe for them to do so.

Laboratory Work.

There is a County Laboratory at Norwich. Examination of Swabs for Diphtheria, Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli and Blood for Vidal re-action are undertaken free of cost. Shell-fish from the different Lays, Cleansing Pools, and Carts are examined when considered advisable.

Twenty-six swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli were examined during the year.

A considerable amount of Water Analysis is done by your Sanitary Inspector, and Special Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis by Mr. L. Sutton, County Analyst, Norwich.

Vital Statistic.

Births.	Legitimate ...	Males 126	Females 98	Total 224
	Illegitimate ...	,, 8	,, 5	13
				237

Birth-Rate = 14.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Compared with 14.9 ,, ,, population for England and Wales.

Still-Births.—	Legitimate ...	Males 0	Females 4	Total 4
	Illegitimate ...	,, 1	,, 0	,, 1
				5

Still-Birth Rate = 0.30 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Compared with 0.60 ,, ,, population for England and Wales.

Still-Birth Rate per 1000 (live and still) Births = 21.0

Deaths. Males 130. Females 124. Total 254

Death-Rate = 15.4 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Compared with 12.4 ,, ,, population for England and Wales.

Deaths from Puerperal causes ... 0

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate ...	Males 2	Females 5	Total 7
Illegitimate ...	,, 0	,, 1	,, 1
			8

Infantile Death-Rate = 33.7 per 1000 Births.

Compared with 58 ,, for England and Wales.

Death-Rate for Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births = 31.2

,, ,, Illegitimate ,, ,, Illegitimate live births = 76.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	1
,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	0
,, Diphtheria (all ages)	0
,, Maternal Mortality	0

Legislation in Force.

Sections 34, 35 and 46 comprised in Part III of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1907, have been adopted for the District, and Section 19, Part II for Heacham ; also the whole of Part IV, and Sections 36 to 38 and 40 to 43 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Sanitary Circumstances.

Water.

The village of Heacham has a piped supply, taking its water from Hunstanton Urban District Council's supply.

There is now a piped system installed for the villages of Dersingham, Ingoldisthorpe, Snettisham, Sedgeford, Fring and Docking. The main pumping station in the village of Fring, where two 12-inch diameter lined bores are sunk to a depth of 137 feet to the bottom of the chalk, supplies a reservoir about a mile away and from there is distributed through the mains to the several villages. There is also a storage tower at Docking. The supply is ample and of good quality. Generally, the water of the District comes from the chalk and is of very fair quality, although very hard.

Rivers and Streams.

No action to check Pollution required.

Drainage and Sewage.

Nothing further has been done at present.

Scavenging.

A scheme for dealing with indestructible refuse is under consideration.

Schools.

I received no complaints

Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District in which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.—8 cases; 8 houses; 4 villages affected. Type of Disease—mild. In severe cases Serum is supplied free in necessitous cases. Emergency doses are stocked by Chemists and can be obtained on application to the District M.O.H.

Diphtheria.—Two cases. One was not recognised until it had left the District. Contacts received prophylactic doses. Antitoxin is supplied free in necessitous cases, the amount paid this year was £2.3.10.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Three cases, all treated at home.

Pneumonia.—Fourteen cases, four sent to hospital.

Erysipelas.—No cases.

Typhoid Fever.—One case. The source of infection could not be traced, a possible source was shell-fish, but nothing definite could be made out.

Ophthalmia.—No cases.

Malaria and Bacillary Dysentery.— No case. One of Dysentery (Sonne) was notified from Norwich, in a child from this District, which was evidently contracted there.

Whooping Cough.—Your Council have offered to provide vaccines in necessitous cases, for the treatment and prevention of Whooping Cough. The selection of vaccine is left to the Medical Practitioners, who can procure the same himself and forward the account, with the names of patients to the District M.O.H.

No means for disinfection of verminous persons is provided by your Council.

No use has been made of either Schick or Dick Tests.

Disinfectants.—Amount spent on Disinfectants this year was £5.13.11.

Tabulated List of Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to H'spit'l	Total Deaths	Under One	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65-over
Small Pox	0														
Scarlet Fever	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	1				
Diphtheria	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3			
Pneumonia Lobar ...	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	4	4	1
Erysipelas	0														
Ophthalmia	0														
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	1	1								1					

Deaths from Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total Deaths	Under 1 year
Whooping Cough ...	1	1

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 and under	0	0						
1—5	0	1	1					
5—10		2		1				
10—15								
15—20				1				
20—25		1						
25—35								
35—45	3	1	1		1			
45—55	3	1			1	1		
55—65 upwards		1		1		2		

One case not notified.

Non-Notifiable Diseases were prevalent as follows:

Measles.—A few odd cases (as reported by School Teachers), two from Bircham and at the same time a number of cases of Pink-Eye.

Whooping Cough.—Very few cases.

Mumps.—Two odd cases.

Influenza Colds.—Very prevalent througout the District from January to March.

Epidemic Jaundice.—There must have been quite a number of cases of mild Jaundice throughout the District, as ascertained from School Teachers reports and when making enquiries re Scarlet Fever. A medical man reported to me several cases in Heacham, a father and two children in one house.

The following Schools were closed by the School Medical Officer :—

Snettisham (Infants)	for Influenzal Colds from	Jan. 11th to Jan. 22nd.
do. (Mixed)	do.	Jan. 11th to Jan. 22nd.
Docking (Infants)	do.	Jan. 18th to Jan. 22nd.
do. do.	do.	Jan. 25th to Jan. 29th.
do. (Mixed)	do.	Jan. 18th to Jan. 22nd.
Ingoldisthorpe	do.	Jan. 19th to Jan. 22nd.
Ringstead	do.	Jan. 27th to Jan. 29th.
do.	do.	Feb. 1st to Feb. 5th.
do.	do.	Feb. 25th to Feb. 26th.
do.	do.	March 1st to March 5th.
Heacham (Infants)	do.	Jan. 27th to Jan. 29th.
do. do.	do.	Feb. 1st to Feb. 5th.
do. (Mixed)	do.	Feb. 1st to Feb. 5th.
Burnham Thorpe	do.	Jan. 26th to Jan. 29th.
do.	do.	Feb. 1st to Feb. 5th.
East Rudham	do.	Jan. 29th to Feb. 5th.
Stanhoe	do.	Feb. 1st to Feb. 5th.
Syderstone	do.	Feb. 4th to Feb. 12th.
Burnham Market	do.	Feb. 5th to Feb. 12th.
do. (girls and infants)	do.	March 8th to March 12th.
Thornham	do.	March 15th to March 19th.

Tuberculosis Notifications.

All cases were notified.

No action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925).

No action taken under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Incidence of the Principal Infectious Diseases per 1000 of the Population :—

Scarlet Fever	0.48	compared with	2.33	for England	and Wales.
Diphtheria	0.12	,,	,, 1.49	,,	,,
Enteric	0·06	,,	,, 0.05	,,	,,
Erysipelas	0.00	,,	,, 0.37	,,	,,
Pneumonia	0.85	,,	,, 1.36	,,	,,

Incidence of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia in relation to the number of Births (including Still-Births) per 1000 Births :—

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia } 12.4 compared with 13.93 for England and Wales.

Disinfection after Notifiable Diseases.

Our usual procedure has been carried out with satisfactory results.

Milk.

Applications under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act are now dealt with by the County M.O.H.

Meat.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	approx. 1300	Number very variable	Scarcely any	Not accurately known	Approx. 3800
Number inspected	125			130	244
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcases condemned ...					2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8			4	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	6.4			3.08	2.0
Tuberculosis only —					
Whole carcase condemned ...	2				
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	15				38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	13.6				15.5

Housing Statistics for the Year 1937.

Number of new Houses erected during the year :		
(a) Total (including number given separately under (b)—		
(i) By the Local Authority	46	
(ii) By other Local Authorities	28	
(iii) By other bodies or persons	0	
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :	18	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made	208	Complete Inspection of District in 1931
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included in the sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925) and the number of inspections made	104	Inspections
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to Health as to be unfit for human habitation	72	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	90	
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer	14	
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :		
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	0	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a) By Owners	0	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration of owners of intention to close	0	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act :		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14	
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a) By Owners	13	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1	
(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :		
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders ...	72	Clearance & Demolition Orders
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made	72	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0	
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...		
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance in demolition orders ...	7	
4. Number of Houses owned by Local Authority	314	
(1) Built under Part III of the Housing Act, 1925	0	
(2) Built under Part II of the Housing Act, 1925	0	
(3) Built under other Powers	0	
5. Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding :		
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	103	
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	103	
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	624	

Appended is the Report of the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

This being my last Annual Report, I desire to acknowledge the courtesy I have received from the Members of the Council and the Clerical Staff during my tenure of office, and to record my indebtedness to Mr. Nowell for his great help and pleasant co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,

B. G. SUMPTER.

Report of Building Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.
1937.

Infectious Diseases.—There have been 13 Zymotic Enquiries made concerning infectious cases and 10 disinfections.

Inspections.—Housing 208, Food Shops 90, Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops 203, Bakehouses 57, Dairies and Cowsheds 300, General 877, Shops' Act 26, Factory Act (Workshops, &c.) 116.

Notices Served.—There were 14 Preliminary Notices and 1 Statutory Notice, all were complied with.

Scavenging.—The Scavenging of the four villages is continued, viz., Ringstead, Heacham, Docking and Burnham Market.

Milk.—Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. There are 103 Dairies and Cowkeepers registered. 12 Dairies are registered as Accredited Producers. Samples of Milk are bacteriological examined from time to time. A very fair quality of Milk is produced.

Shops Act, 1934.—There are 13 Shops employing assistants. Sanitary conditions comply with the Act.

Bakers.—There are 25 Bakehouses in the District. Whitewashing and general cleanliness is satisfactory.

Butchers.—There are 27 registered Slaughter-houses in the District. Whitewashing and general cleanliness is satisfactory.

Knackers' Yards.—There are 2 Slaughterers in the District. Their business is carried on without offence.

New Houses.—There have been 46 new houses built during the year.

Sewers.—The Snettisham Open Sewer and the River Wensum and connecting drains at East Rudham have been cleaned out.

Water.—Samples of Water from 120 wells have been analysed. 90 satisfactory, 30 unfit.

Petroleum Act.—There are 44 licensed Petrol Stores and 12 Carbide Stores.

Workshops.—

Blacksmiths	43	Hand Laundries	3
Carpenters and Builders...	41	Masons	4
Cycle and Motor Repairs...	13	Basket Makers	1
Plumbers	3	Engineers	3
Boot Repairers	22	Foundries	2
Painters	15	Razors Blade Factory... ...	1
Harness Makers	7	Shingle Exporting	1
Dressmakers	5		

Your Obedient Servant,

A. B. NOWELL.